

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Living Faith*

*Changing Lives*

*Making a Difference!*

2017  
Annual Report

## A Note from Father Troy

Dear Friends in Christ:

This Annual Report offers a review of the 2016-17 fiscal year. It is however delayed in being published due to the catastrophic flooding that took place in August. We cannot make this report without mentioning that so many of our parishioners and neighbors have suffered so greatly and are at the center of our thoughts and prayers as we all strive to move forward in our recovery and rebuilding efforts. The countless expressions of love and care for one another during this time of crisis beautifully reveal and express the core and character of our parish not just in time of need but throughout our half century of existence.

Prior to the devastating floods, 2016-17 was a year like all other years where we worshiped God, served our neighbors and celebrated the joy of our Catholic faith. But 2016-17 was also a year of celebration. After some difficult years of economic downturn, our local economy was making some signs of recovery as some of our parishioners were beginning to get back on their feet and get back to work. After years of planning, St. John Vianney marked the 50th year of its establishment with joyful celebrations beginning with a grand gala at Omni Hotel with Oliver and Kathy Luck serving as Masters of Ceremonies and Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza as the special guest of honor. In a packed ballroom, filled with parishioners new and old, we celebrated with an elegant dinner and a night of dancing and entertainment recalling the 50 wonderful years of SJV.

Christmas saw the major completion of the chapel and beautiful new marble and mosaic floor in the church. The Feast of Annunciation, March 25, was the day that our church renovations and the new altar were solemnly dedicated by our bishop, Cardinal DiNardo. Amid the splendor of the ceremony and joy that filled the hearts of all those present, we were joined by dozens of priests and were especially blessed to have the rector of the Shrine of Ars and successor of St. Jean Marie Vianney, Fr. Patrice Chocholski as our special guest. For the occasion Fr. Patrice brought the actual chalice of our patron saint for use at the Mass of Dedication. The Anniversary year was concluded with a beautiful mass and parish celebration on our Patronal Feast Day, August 4, at which our parish received the incredible gift of a replica of the saint's chalice



from the Parish Council of the Knights of Columbus. Little did we know at the time that the worst disaster to affect the Houston area was only four weeks away and our neighborhood would be at the center of the destruction.

As we now work to recover and rebuild, we also work to complete the final touches of the *Continuing Vision Campaign*. As we do so, we are reminded that the real work of the church continues. The work and mission that we were given by the Lord remains. We are called to live our faith

in Christ and continue to proclaim His love to all. We are reminded by the beautiful statues of the saints that now grace our church that we are all called to a life of holiness; to love God above all else and to bring others to the saving relationship that Jesus wants with every person. We are reminded by the beautiful new tabernacle in the center of the sanctuary containing the most precious gift of the Holy Eucharist that Jesus is to always be the center of our lives.

This Annual Report is more than facts and figures, pictures and vignettes concerning St. John Vianney Parish. It is a snapshot of God's grace and blessings and our response in faith and love.

In Pace Christi,

Reverend R. Troy Gately  
Pastor

# Our Jubilee Year



## Celebrations

Months before our 50th year began, the Jubilee steering committee was busy planning. It was to be a year of remembrances of the significant events and people making SJV such a vital and dynamic parish from the beginning. There were one-of-a-kind photos and heartwarming stories to share on a special anniversary blog and in the bulletin. Two events kicked off the celebrations. First it was a Saturday night Gala complete with anniversary video, special guests and former associates, dancing, and even a special appearance by the Vianney Virtuoso! Then the next day we had a huge picnic and fed more than 1500 hungry parishioners delicious hot dogs and hamburgers cooked by our Knights and served up by our Young Adult Ministry.

In October, a group of parishioners were blessed to go on a very special pilgrimage to France and Italy to mark our 50th as well as the Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis. Besides a trip to the Shrine of Ars, France, which honors our patron saint, the trip also included visits to the four major basilicas in Rome which had Holy Doors opened for the Year of Mercy.



## The Gift of a Home

Since 2012 SJV has participated in seven builds as part of Habitat for Humanity Northwest. However, never before has the parish exclusively donated all the funds and manpower to provide a new home for a family. In a spirit of gratitude for our 50th anniversary and our own new construction, the parish wanted to share its resources with a deserving family and give Glory to God. From a concrete

slab in July 2016, volunteers worked for ten Saturdays over about seven months to complete a three-bedroom home. By the home's dedication in January 2017, over 200 SJV volunteers contributed more than 1300 hours of labor to the home. The Estrada family is thrilled with their new home!

## Ongoing Construction

Construction for our *Continuing the Vision* project kicked into full gear. In August steel went up on the garth way arcade for the plaza. In September steel went up for the bell tower and the new marble floor was laid. Then came the mosaics and the liturgical furniture. Of course there were some delays, but when the people prayed for doors, the doors appeared. There were hidden benefits to the delays. For when daily Mass continued in the Activity Center Dining Room, parishioners made the most of it by growing closer in holiness.

## Dedication

Although construction continued, work paused on a weekend in March for the Dedication of the Altar. Cardinal DiNardo presided and Fr. Patrice Chocholski, the current Cure of Ars, flew in from France to be our special guest. This special liturgy included Depositing of the Relics of saints, Prayer of Dedication, Anointing of the Altar, Incensation of the Altar, and Adornment and Lighting of the Altar.

# Living Faith



## A Celebration of Life

On a Saturday in April, over 100 people gathered for the 5th year in a row to acknowledge the beauty and dignity of all life. The morning began with a reflection and living rosary led by Deacon Greg Stokes. So many different voices saying the prayers was a beautiful testament to the value of each and every life. Afterwards both children and adults enjoyed a variety of lawn games, arts & crafts, contests, and food. If you missed it, please plan to join us next year!



### Sacraments:

**129 infants and 50 children (ages 1 -7) received their Baptism.**

**21 youth (ages 7-17) completed the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) and 29 adults, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).**

**284 children received their Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.**

**111 youth and 40 adults received the gifts of the Holy Spirit by the Sacrament of Confirmation.**

**70 couples prepared for and celebrated their Marriage.**

## Strengthening Families

Since the early 2000's Familia has helped to create life-long friendships for many SJV parishioners and their families. Familia, which stands for Family Life in America, is a four-year program offered by the Cana Family Institute (CFI), a Catholic national organization dedicated to promoting, preserving and strengthening marriage and family in today's culture.

In a small group setting, Familia provides practical tools that will enable you to become a champion for your family. There are currently around 40 participants organized in teams of "Mothers of Young Children" as well as one team of "Husbands and Fathers". Additionally, four members of the CFI leadership team are SJV parishioners.

*St. Joseph, protector of the family, pray for us!*

## Formation for Men

The men's program, That Man is You, was brought to the parish in 2006. It has grown like everything else at the parish so that over 50 men have been impacted by TMIY in the last two years but many more since the beginning.

The men meet weekly before work to support one another in becoming men "fully alive." By honestly addressing the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, That Man is You seeks to form men who will be capable of transforming homes and society.

# Changing Lives



## On a Mission

This year SJV continued its mission to be a missionary parish. SJV participated in a Helping Hands Medical Mission to El Salvador in October. Over 2400 individuals were served by the Mission Team and the Team, for their part, was also blessed for their works of mercy.

In both fall and spring, SJV sent teams to Eagle Pass on the Mexican border to do home repairs for the elderly and handicapped poor. During four trips parishioners, seminarians, and high school students repaired roofs and sheetrock, corrected drainage, improved plumbing and electricity, to name just a few of the projects.

The teams would like to thank Sr. Ursula Herrera and Fr. Gerry Kelly for helping them with these missions.



### Faith Formation:

**145 Pre-K and Kindergarten children, 902 Elementary, 179 Jr. High and 255 High School students were enrolled in Continuing Christian Education (CCE).**

**450 Adults attended Bible Studies. 3,000 more attended Personal Growth, Spirituality and Theology programs offered at our Parish.**

**1675 Parishioners received training in Liturgical Ministries.**

## A Big Thank You-

to all who attended and assisted in making **The National Catholic Bible Conference** a success! Over 1200 people attended from across the U.S. As the first Texas host, the parish was selected because of our vibrant communal life and, in particular, the significant number of participants in Bible Studies.

The speakers were wonderful, a great balance of academic theology and down to earth practice. Attendees reported being refreshed and motivated.

## Confident Faith- in a Confusing World

2017 marks the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation. To help us reflect on the causes that led to the Protestant Reformation and the challenges that our Catholic faith is facing in today's

world, SJV's Adult Formation offered two lecture series this past February:

**Reform or Revolt: Getting the Reformation Right** by Fr. Chuck Talar, which presented the Reformation in context and the response from Rome and the Church.

And **Causes of Skepticism and Doubt: Confident Faith in a Confusing World** by Mark McNeil, which explored the impact that rapid cultural, scientific and technological changes have had on contemporary Catholicism and Christianity in general.

If you missed these or any of our latest presentations, visit **the Lectures & Audio page on our website.**

# Making a Difference

## Faith, Fun & Friends

Spaces filled quickly for both our summer programs at SJV! Children enjoyed meeting friends new and old while learning about Jesus and having lots of fun!

Our theme for Vacation Bible School this year was Maker Fun Factory, which created a world where curious kids became hands-on inventors who discover they're lovingly crafted by God.

Camp SJV 2017 was packed with games, food, and fun. Some of the favorite activities were pool days and field trips for the 7-12 year old campers and Wacky Water Days, face painting and crafts for the 4-6 year olds. New this year: Campers learned about the virtues of prudence and justice represented in the new mosaics on the church floor.



### Social Service Ministries:

**3,399 individuals (including children) were provided with food from our Food Pantry.**

**1,721 people were provided with clothing from Joseph's Coat, which also shared clothing with SJV's Missions to Eagle Pass and El Salvador and other Charitable Organizations.**

**Emergency assistance with utilities and other family expenses was provided to 750 individuals.**

**Our volunteer teachers provided English as a Second Language classes to 281 students.**

**The Gabriel Project assisted 210 expectant mothers with emotional support and supplies for their newborn babies.**



## Easter Joy

After the 40 days of Lent everyone was ready to have fun and celebrate the joy of the Easter season during our annual **Party on the Lot**. It's always a blessing to have our newest Catholics serve in the BBQ lines so everyone has a chance to meet and welcome them to the parish. As food and drink were being enjoyed by an estimated 1900 parishioners, the DJ began to engage the crowd in dances, games, and contests. All this while new friends were introduced and old friends caught up with one another.

## Sacred Music at a High Level

Youth Choir in the Gulf Coast Winter Festival

Eleven choristers from St. John Vianney's Youth Choir participated in the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Gulf Coast Winter Festival at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Houston last February. The event included intensive rehearsals with leading children's choir directors from Houston and beyond. Their hard work culminated in three choral services in which the children led the entire worship services through song.

St. John Vianney became an affiliate of the RSCM last fall, and we are one of only two Catholic churches in Houston active in the organization. Congratulations to our choristers and their directors!

# Thanks for your Support!



## SJV Charities

2016 - 2017

- **Casa Juan Diego** (Shelter for Immigrants)
- **Magnificat House** (Shelter for the Homeless)
- **Wellsprings** (Shelter for Abused Women)
- **Angela House** (Halfway House for Incarcerated Women)
- **Isaiah House** (Halfway House for Incarcerated Men)
- **Memorial Assistance Ministries** (Emergency Services)
- **Habitat for Humanity** (Housing)
- **Archdiocese of Galveston Houston | Pope Francis Habitat House** (Housing)
- **Interfaith Ministries | Meals on Wheels** (Food Services)
- **Our Daily Bread** (Food Services)
- **Catholic Charities** (Emergency Services)
- **St. Jerome Church | Assistance to Gentry House Fire** (Emergency Services)

### Stewardship:

Our 2016 Fall Bazaar was a huge success made possible by over 1,500 volunteers, our sponsors, our staff, and countless attendees. "Thank you" to all our committee members!

The bazaar had a total earnings of \$207,044.00. 100% of all proceeds benefit our parish charities.

In addition to this, we also dedicate monies from our regular income to support other parishes and charitable entities through subsidies and financial gifts.

Many benefit from our sacrificial stewardship: A great witness for Living Faith, Changing Lives & Making a Difference!

- **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** (St. Vincent de Paul)
- **Carmelite Nuns** (Religious)
- **Cenacle Retreat House** (Religious)
- **Legionaries of Christ** (Religious)
- **St. Mary's Seminary** (Religious)
- **Texas Right to Life** (Healthcare)
- **Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers** (Healthcare)
- **Spring Branch Community Health Center** (Healthcare)
- **San Jose Clinic** (Healthcare)
- **CanCare of Houston** (Healthcare)
- **Interfaith Care Partners** (Healthcare)
- **St. Leo The Great Church** (Parish)
- **St. Peter Claver Church** (Parish)
- **St. Francis of Assisi Church** (Parish)
- **St. Francis of Assisi School** (Catholic Education)
- **Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory High School** (Catholic Education)
- **St. John XXIII College Preparatory** (Catholic Education)
- **St. John Paul II School** (Catholic Education)
- **Archdiocese of Galveston Houston | Inner City Catholic Schools** (Catholic Education)
- **St. Jerome School** (Catholic Education)
- **FOCUS | Fellowship of Catholic University Students** (Catholic Education)
- **University of St. Thomas | School of Theology** (Catholic Education)
- **University of St. Thomas Parish Scholarship Program** (Catholic Education)

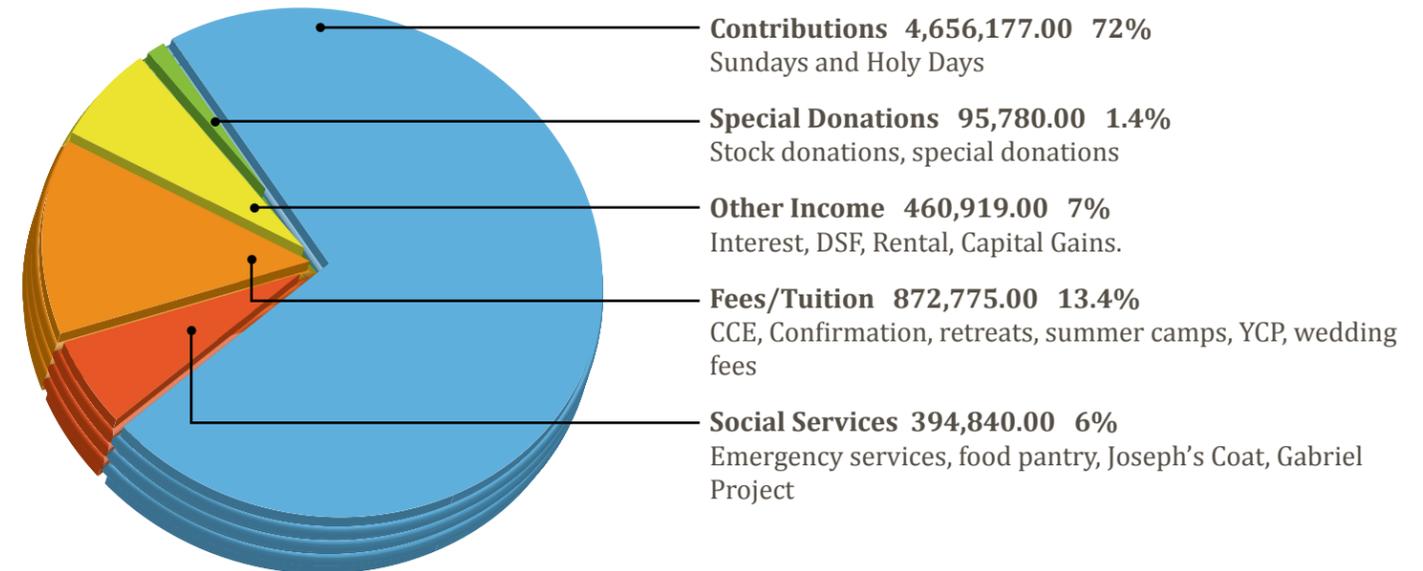
## Finance Report

Financial Statement for Fiscal Year 2015 (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017)

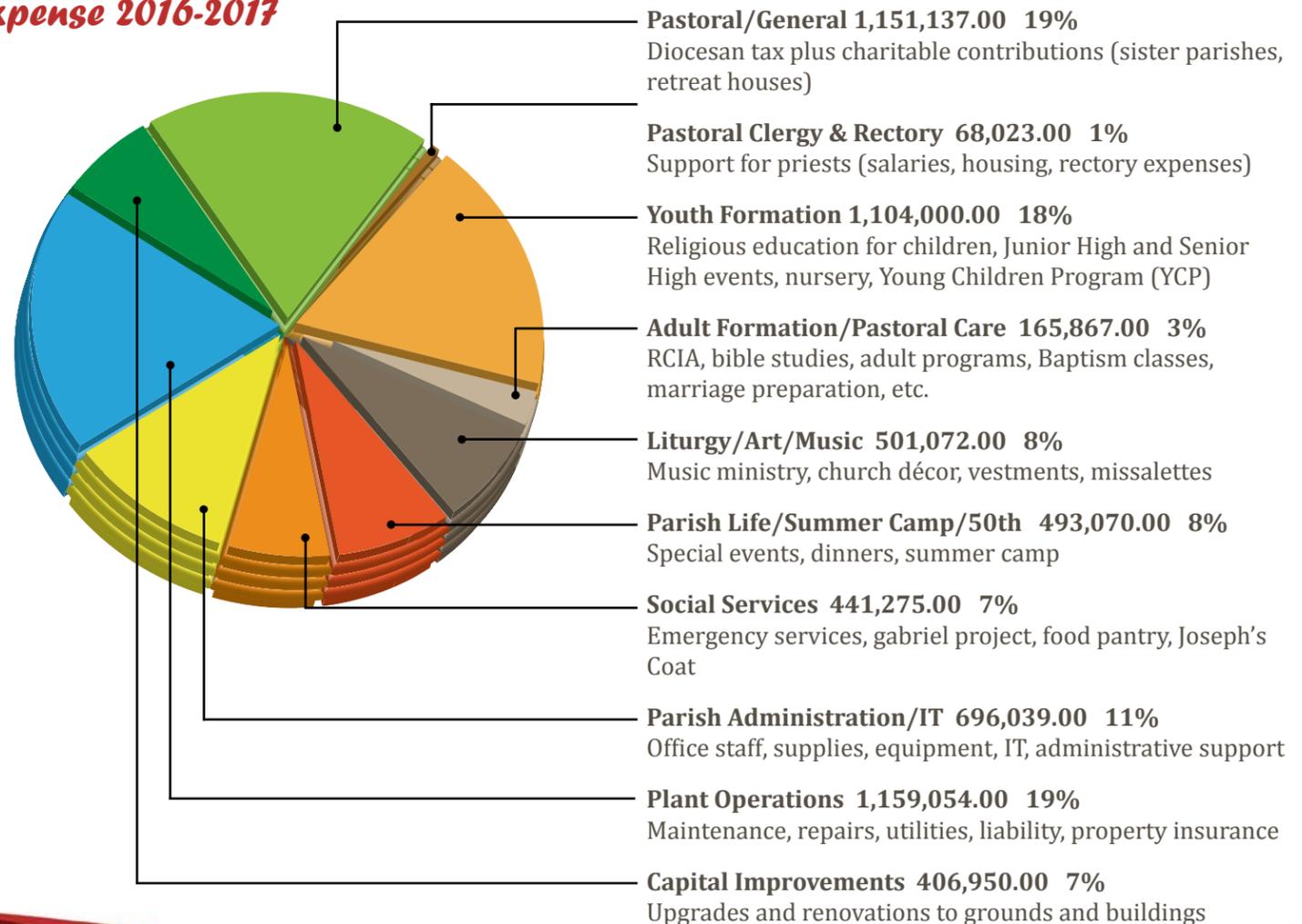
For Fiscal Year 2017 we had revenues of \$6,480,491 and expenses of \$6,186,486 resulting in a net gain of \$294,005. For Fiscal Year 2018 we are projecting a **9.4% decrease in revenue**. Projected decrease is attributed to the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey along with the ongoing construction on Memorial Drive. We are projecting a **7.55% decrease in overall expenses**. This is attributed to the reduction of department budgets. The projected revenue and expense figures will result in a net gain of \$151,000 for FY 2018 if all variables hold true. The surplus funds would replenish savings used for revenue lost during Hurricane Harvey.

Description	2016-2017 Budget	2016-2017 Actual	2017-2018 Budget
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions	5,000,000.00	4,656,177.00	4,300,000.00
Special Donations	25,000.00	95,780.00	150,000.00
Other Income: DSF/Interest/Rental	255,600.00	460,919.00	386,000.00
Fees/Tuition	1,015,200.00	872,775.00	758,100.00
Social Ministries	353,000.00	394,840.00	275,900.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>6,648,800.00</b>	<b>6,480,491.00</b>	<b>5,870,000.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Pastoral/General	1,177,300.00	1,151,137.00	1,026,525.00
Pastoral Clergy & Rectory	86,000.00	68,023.00	114,415.00
Youth Formation	1,214,973.00	1,104,000.00	838,303.00
Adult Formation/Pastoral Care	438,700.00	165,867.00	295,114.00
Liturgy/Art/Music	560,700.00	501,072.00	494,040.00
Parish Life/Summer Camp/50th Anniversary	600,700.00	493,070.00	486,920.00
Social Services	533,700.00	441,275.00	471,071.00
Parish Administration/IT	724,800.00	696,039.00	734,482.00
Plant Operations	1,117,127.00	1,159,054.00	1,047,630.00
Capital Improvements	200,000.00	406,950.00	210,500.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>6,654,000.00</b>	<b>6,186,486.00</b>	<b>5,719,000.00</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(5,200.00)</b>	<b>294,005.00</b>	<b>151,000.00</b>

## Income 2016-2017



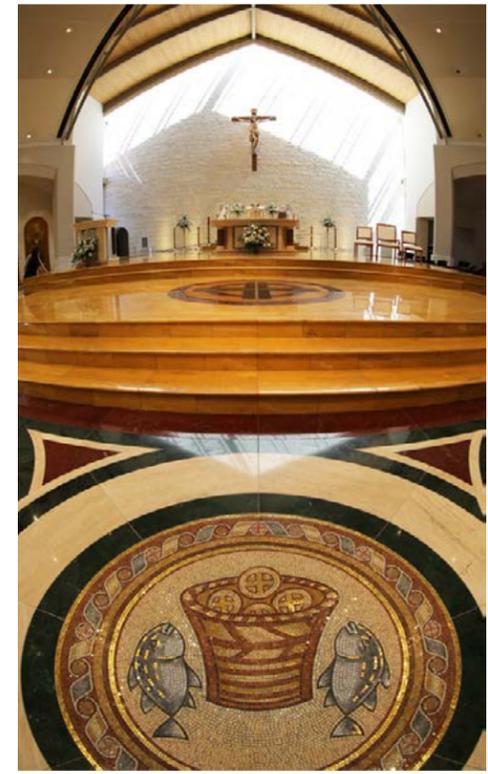
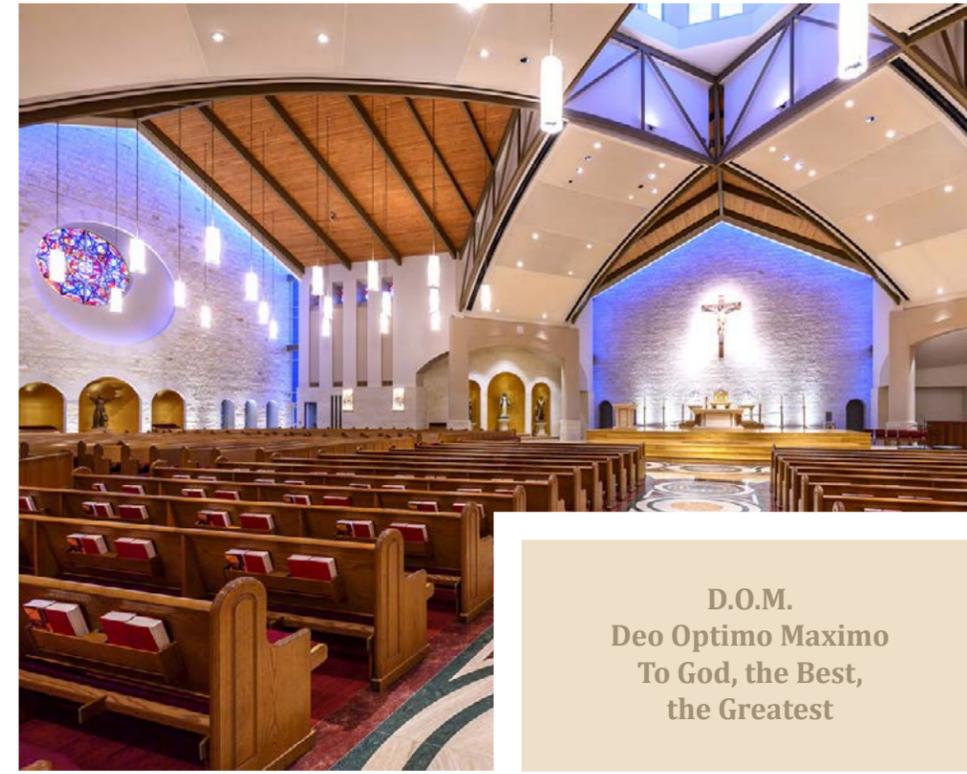
## Expense 2016-2017



# Continuing The Vision



# Construction Project



D.O.M.  
Deo Optimo Maximo  
To God, the Best,  
the Greatest



Photo courtesy of: Turner Duran Architects, Rolf Design and Forney Construction



Photo courtesy of: Turner Duran Architects, Rolf Design and Forney Construction